

MAGNETIC RESONANCE CONTRAST-ENHANCING  
AGENTS AND METHOD FOR DETECTING AND  
IMAGING ARTEROSCLEROTIC PLAQUE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**[0068]** Magnetic resonance ("MR") contrast-enhancing agents comprise poly(amino acid) backbone chain conjugated to chelating moieties that comprise a plurality of carboxylic acid groups that form coordination complexes with paramagnetic ions. A method for detecting atherosclerotic plaque areas comprises administering at least one of these contrast agents into a subject; and obtaining and comparing MR images of and MR signals from the plaque areas before and after administering the contrast agent. The method can be used to assess an effectiveness of a prescribed course of treatment for atherosclerosis.